

COLUMBIA ADDS HUGE SHEET UNIT

TORRANCE HERALD

34th YEAR—No. 44

ESTABLISHED 1914... THREE SECTIONS — 24 PAGES
TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1948

PER COPY 10c



LOOKING OVER NEW MILL SITE—Standing in Torrance just west of Western avenue on the property of the present Columbia Steel mill, officers and directors of United States Steel Corp. and its subsidiary, the Columbia Steel Co., look over the 200-acre site which they had just purchased across Western avenue for the erection of a \$30,000,000 cold reduction sheet mill. They are (left to right): Frank A. Burns, public relations representative of Columbia Steel; Sewell L. Avery (with head down), director of U. S. Steel and president of Montgomery, Ward & Co.; James B. Black, director and president of P. G. & E.; Robert C. Stanley, director and president of International Nickel Co.; John Osmer, general assistant to the chairman; Irving S. Olds (pointing) chairman of the board; Arthur M. Anderson, director and vice-president of J. P. Morgan & Co.; Alexander C. Nagle, director and president of First National Bank of New York; William A. Irvin, director; Benjamin F. Fairless, president; Paul F. Kohhaas, vice-president, engineering, Columbia Steel; J. Lester Perry, retiring-president, Columbia Steel; Carl S. Warner, superintendent of construction, Columbia Steel, who will be in charge of construction of the new mill; and Alden G. Roach, president of Consolidated Western Steel Corp., and president-elect of Columbia Steel Company.

\$30,000,000 Job of Changing Over to Begin at Once

"COLUMBIA BUYING ALCOA PLANT, \$30,000,000 Cold Rolled Sheet Unit Will Employ 1500." Thus read the headlines in the Torrance Herald issue of Jan. 8, 1948. And then followed the complete story identifying the location of the huge expansion program of Columbia Steel at Torrance, a story which was reported exclusively in the Torrance Herald.

Extend Huge Alcoa Plant Power Line

Construction work on a new 280,000 kilowatt power line that will tie in with the high-voltage line serving the old Alcoa plant on Normandie avenue gave rise this week to reports that new industries using large amounts of electric energy may be seeking locations in the Los Angeles shoring.

An entirely new line of 120-foot-high steel towers is being erected northward from the existing line along Berondo avenue and Raymond avenue to Los Angeles city's new Gramercy avenue and Century boulevards.

The tie-in with the existing line is about one-half mile east of Normandie avenue and one-half mile south of 190th street. Thirty men are employed on the job of erecting the 54 new towers, and the work is expected to be completed before the end of the year. The original line was extended from the city's substation at 900 East Lomita boulevard to the Alcoa plant in 1942. Since then Los Angeles has greatly increased the capacity of its Harbor steam plant, and still further expansion is planned.

Now it is official. Last Friday at the Biltmore in Los Angeles, J. Lester Perry, president of Columbia Steel Company, handed press representatives the official release.

With President Perry at the conference were Irving S. Olds, chairman of the U. S. Steel Board; Benjamin F. Fairless, president of U. S. Steel; and Alden G. Roach, president of Consolidated Western Steel Corporation and who will take over the presidency of Columbia Steel Company on Nov. 15, succeeding Perry, who is retiring from the post.

"Columbia Steel Company took possession of the former Alcoa property from the War Assets Administration on Oct. 22," Perry stated.

"This site, located near Columbia's existing steel mill at Torrance, consists of more than 200 acres of land and various

Site Fronts on Western

The site lies south of 190th street between Western and Normandie avenues, and includes 2500 feet of frontage on Western avenue, between the Harvey Machine Works and the Santa Fe tracks.

Carl S. Warner, construction superintendent of Columbia Steel will be in charge of the erection of the huge new mill. He also supervised construction of a similar mill at Pittsburg, Calif., which was formally dedicated last week. Mr. and Mrs. Warner, who formerly lived in Torrance, are returning here to make their home.

buildings which were used to house an aluminum plant during the late war.

"These buildings, which are now practically vacant, will be reconstructed and re-arranged to serve the needs of a modern sheet steel mill. Work on such reconstruction will commence immediately.

"The equipment for the new sheet mill has been under order for many months and is now being manufactured. It is expected that the mill will be completed and in operation sometime in 1950. The mill will employ approximately 1500 men.

"The new cold reduction mill will be the most modern of its kind in this country. It will have an annual capacity for the production of over 300,000 tons of cold reduced sheets of various kinds.

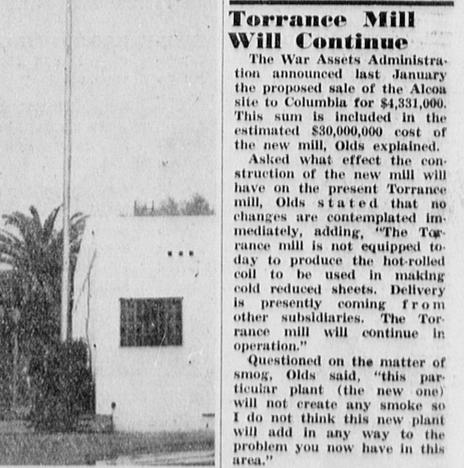
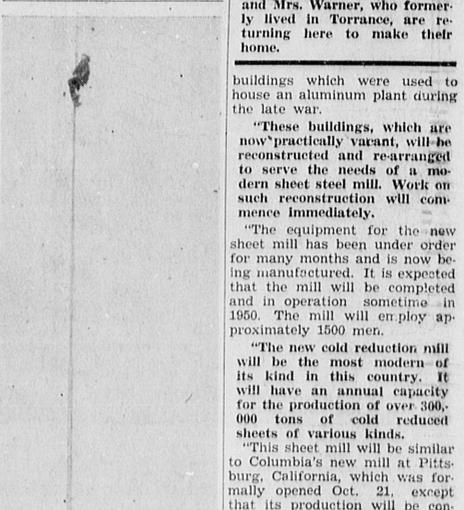
"This sheet mill will be similar to Columbia's new mill at Pittsburg, California, which was formally opened Oct. 21, except that its production will be con-

Torrance Mill Will Continue

The War Assets Administration announced last January the proposed sale of the Alcoa site to Columbia for \$4,531,000. This sum is included in the estimated \$30,000,000 cost of the new mill, Olds explained.

Asked what effect the construction of the new mill will have on the present Torrance mill, Olds stated that no changes are contemplated immediately, adding, "The Torrance mill is not equipped today to produce the hot-rolled coil to be used in making cold reduced sheets. Delivery is presently coming from other subsidiaries. The Torrance mill will continue in operation."

Questioned on the matter of smog, Olds said, "This particular plant (the new one) will not create any smoke so I do not think this new plant will add in any way to the problem you now have in this area."



ENJOYS IT—Being a steeplejack may not appeal to you, but it does to W. H. Atkins. Swinging in his "chair" 60 feet in the air over the city jail, he is installing the new aerial for the police department's new high-frequency radio system. The pay? \$22 a day.

Propositions to Dominate Local Ballot

Nineteen state measures and 10 county proposals dominate the ballot for the Nov. 2 general election next Tuesday, local residents noted this week after perusing their sample ballots received over the week end.

While it will take but a few seconds for the average voter to get half-way across the ballot—through the Presidential electors, the Congressional Legislative and Judicial headings it will require some minutes for him to wade through the state and county measures.

Returns on the election are (Continued on Page 3-A)

City Offices, Banks, Closing Election Day

Banks, city offices, liquor stores and bars will be closed throughout the city on Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 2.

Other business places will remain open, as will the post-office.

Bars and liquor stores will re-open at 7 p.m., however.

CITY HAS 25 PRECINCTS

Torrance has 25 precincts for the Nov. 2 election. It had 19 last May, 17 in April, and one in 1920, City Clerk A. H. Bartlett said yesterday in commenting on the election.

Solons Urge Adoption of Prop. No. 18

Adoption of Proposition 18 would be the equivalent of about two cents on the city's tax rate, which would mean that the levy could be reduced by that much annually, the Torrance City Council was advised last night by City Engineer George Stevens.

The council adopted a resolution urging passage of the amendment, which would require the state to reimburse the city, the school district and special districts "losses in tax revenues arising from real property tax exemptions of veterans and of religious, hospital and charitable institutions."

Emmet Ingram, business manager of the local school district, said that \$15,317 would be returned to the Torrance district on this year's assessed valuation. Exemptions this year amounted to \$816,545.

City Frowns on Bus Line Via Redondo

Bus service to Hollywood Riviera via Redondo Beach would necessitate purchase of a new bus by the Torrance Municipal bus lines, City Council concluded at its meeting Tuesday night after discussing the matter with M. A. Chamberlain, manager.

However, Mayor J. Hugh Sherry, Jr., informed A. J. Patronsky, a detailed survey and report has been requested.

The proposal was made by a Redondo Beach city councilman in a recent letter to the council, but Patronsky explained that residents of his community are interested in obtaining better service for their section from the municipal lines, which is supported in part by their municipal levy.

New Phone Building Site for Riviera

Zoning variance that will permit construction of a telephone service building on property north of Palos Verdes city limits, on the east side of Puerta del Norte, was approved by the Torrance City Council this week.

Associated Telephone Company will construct the new building. The variance was petitioned for by Sunhaven Properties, Inc. and approved last week by the City Planning Commission.

Metropolitan Opera Soprano Will Open Concert Series Here

Nadine Connor, soprano with the Metropolitan Opera Company and an outstanding artist, has been obtained for the first concert in the 1948-49 Torrance series, it was announced yesterday following conclusion of this season's membership renewal last Saturday.

Five hundred and fifty memberships were subscribed for this season, many of them new members, according to Mrs. Robert S. Sleeth, secretary of Torrance Community Concerts, the local sponsoring organization.

Miss Connor, who sang at Hollywood Bowl last summer and now is co-starring with Nelson Eddy in a radio series, has won the plaudits of the nation's music critics.

Two other noted artists will be heard during the season. They are Gyorgy Sandor, Hungarian pianist who is soloist with the Philadelphia Orchestra, and Anatol Kaminsky, violinist. Sandor has made concert tours of Europe and Latin America as well as the North American continent.

Kaminsky, Russian-born and American-educated young violinist, re-entered the concert field after the war interval and following a successful New York recital made a tour of Europe. Sandor will be heard here in February and Kaminsky sometime in April.

All concerts are to be given in Torrance High School Auditorium at 8:30 p.m. and admission is by membership only.

\$1,000,000 Job

Goodyear Will Convert Plant to Produce New 'Cold Rubber'

Immediate conversion of production facilities at its Torrance plant to turn out 15,000 long tons annually of a revolutionary new "cold" rubber giving increased mileage was announced yesterday by the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company.

The Torrance plant has been producing this new material on an experimental and development basis for more than a year, supplementing work being done in pilot plants at Akron, Ohio, and a 40,000-pound shipment arrived there last week for processing into test tires.

The new material is polymerized at a temperature of 41 degrees, while the all-purpose synthetic rubber, known as GR-S, is formulated at a 122-degree

Tree-Planting Study Slated for Torrance

Study of a tree-planting program for the city of Torrance will be undertaken immediately by a committee of city officials, according to plans outlined to the City Council Tuesday night.

The study will include the types of trees that do well in this climate, and ways to finance the planting and care of the trees.

George Stevens, city engineer, said he believed that plans for beautification of the city should be made now, as there are a number of new subdivisions under way.

In some of the new subdivisions the plantings are lacking in uniformity, and in some cases trees have been planted that are unsuitable for parkways.

On the committee will be a member of the City Planning Commission, an employee of the Park department and a representative of the engineering department.

CAA Planning Transmitter on East Road

Civil Aeronautics Administration will open bids Nov. 10 for construction of a powerful transmitter station immediately east of Torrance for its new Los Angeles Overseas-Foreign Airways Communication System, it was revealed this week.

Site of the project extends between Vermont avenue and Figueroa street, and authorization to proceed with the construction is expected by Nov. 23 according to the regional CAA office at Inglewood.

The new station will provide improved communication facilities for the CAA's world-wide system, and will serve both civilian and military airways, it was learned. A temporary station now is operating at 5651 West Manchester boulevard.

Plans call for a transmitter building 34 by 61 feet, of reinforced concrete frame with concrete block curtain walls, and the erection of a power substation and the installation of a 75,000-watt standby engine and generator. All equipment will be furnished by the CAA.

An entrance road, parking areas and fencing of the site also is involved in the contract, which is expected to run between \$25,000 and \$50,000.

Don't Blame Your Wife, Says the WM

"Don't blame your wife," the Weather Man says, "if you came home late from lodge meeting Saturday night and got a cold reception. It was really the weather.

"Yep," he added, "you can't blame her if she gave you cold stares because the mercury dropped to 45 degrees. If you don't believe it look at this:

Oct.	Maximum	Minimum
20	68	53
21	69	55
22	77	53
23	73	45
24	75	49
25	72	56
26	68	56

NEW RESIDENTS

Among Torrance residents who recently moved into new homes are Mr. and Mrs. Mark A. Wright and Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Silligo. The Wright home is at 1552 El Prado and the Silligos are at home at 174 Via Monte d'Oro, Hollywood Riviera.



LIVE AND LEARN—Joyce and Allena Gaines, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. A. U. Gaines of 1922 Plaza del Amo, were disappointed this week to learn that not all coin machines sell bubble gum. This one, in the lobby of the Torrance Post Office, dispenses stamps. Machine is open to the public 24 hours a day.

—Herald Photo

(Continued on Page 7-A)

(Continued on Page 7-A)